

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Mt. Terrill Habitat Improvement

Proposal Number: 878

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Sevier

Project Manager: Kreig Rasmussen

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/15/2008

Project Location: Seven Mile Valley, west of Mt. Terrill

Project Description: We are proposing to use the Dixie Harrow and mechanically treat approximately 1500 acres of silver sage in the valley.

Description of Problem/Need: The silver sage in the Seven-Mile Valley has started to out-compete the grass and tall forbs in the area leading to less ground cover available for soil stabilization. The increasing amount of sediment entering the key fisheries in this watershed (Johnson Reservoir, Mill Meadow Reservoir, and Rex's Reservoir) is also accompanied by an increase in the turbidity in the streams that feed these reservoirs. Summer elk counts done by the Forest Service have shown a decline in the percentage of elk that are using the seven-mile valley. We believe that the decline in use by deer and elk is due to an understory that is starting to fail. The need exists to treat some of the silver sage in the Seven-Mile Valley to stimulate the grass and forb components and to create a more diverse age class in the community.

Objectives: Within the 1500 acre treatment area, reduce silver sage 15% and increase grass and forb cover to > 25%. Increase summer use by mule deer and elk by 10%.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project is in accordance with both the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and the Fishlake National Forest Plan. It focuses on shrubsteppe habitat, a key habitat identified in CWCS and benefits mule deer a tier III species listed in the CWCS.

Potential Risks: We need adequate precipitation to promote seed establishment. Over-grazing in the area would also have negative impacts to the project success.

Proposed Methods: We propose to use the Dixie Harrow to reduce the percentage of silver sage and enhance browse used by deer and elk. The Dixie harrow has an advantage over other types of treatments such as fire or chemicals, because more of the treatment can be controlled (such as timing, treatment pattern, seed application etc). A combination of one and two passes with the Dixie harrow will be used depending on sagebrush density and quality of the grass/forb components. Seed will be applied in the areas where the grass and forb components are below the desired cover percentages. The seed mix will be a variety of grasses and forbs that will be conducive to the soil type and climatic condition.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/878.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 1/16/2008

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Linear vegetation cover transects will be established to gather both pre and post treatment data. They will be read every year for five years and every three years after that. The UDWR conducts an aerial census every 3 years to monitor elk populations. The Forest Service will continue to gather annual population data for deer and elk in the area.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Rainbow Trout	Greater Sage-grouse	Mule Deer	Elk
CO River Cutthroat Trout	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Yellowstone Cutthroat
Speckled Dace	Leatherside Chub		

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	1500
Total	1500

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
USFS	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00
Unfunded Balance	\$107,400.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$122,400.00		\$15,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Personal Services		\$48,000.00	\$0.00
Equipment Rental	Tractor Rental	\$5,400.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Harrow Supplies	\$24,000.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)		\$30,000.00	\$0.00
NEPA	USFS	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Other	USFS - Flagging, design, and implementation	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Totals		\$107,400.00	\$15,000.00

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	100
Total	100.00%

Project Map:

